



David Stout  
406.842.5741 x105  
david@rvcd.org

PO Box 295  
Sheridan, MT  
59749

May 31, 2018

Future Fisheries Improvement Program Panel  
c/o Michelle McGree  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Grant Selection Panel,

Please find attached the Ruby Valley Conservation District's application for Future Fisheries Program funding for its proposed Ramshorn Creek Fish Passage Barrier & Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration project. You will find with this letter the following items related to the application:

- Future Fisheries Improvement Program Grant Application
- Executed Authorizing Statement
- Project Budget
- Survey and Design Cost Estimate
- Installation Cost Estimate
- Proposed Project Plan View
- Example Proposed Structure Design Typical
- Example Proposed Structure Photograph
- Landowner Support & Consent Letter
- Fish Biologist Support Letter
- RVCD Project Management and Maintenance Letter

If you have any questions about the proposed project or would like to request additional materials or information related to this project, please do not hesitate to contact me at [david@rvcd.org](mailto:david@rvcd.org) or (406) 842-5741 x105.

Sincerely,

David Stout, Stewardship Director  
Ruby Valley Conservation District  
Ruby Watershed Council

## FUTURE FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Please fill in the highlighted areas  
all sections (IA, IB, IC, etc.) must be addressed or the application will be considered invalid

### I. APPLICANT INFORMATION

- A. Applicant Name: Ruby Valley Conservation District
- B. Mailing Address: PO Box 295
- C. City: Sheridan State: MT Zip: 59749
- Telephone: (406) 842-5741 E-mail: david@rvcd.org
- D. Contact Person: David Stout
- Address if different from Applicant:
- City:  State:  Zip:
- Telephone:  E-mail:
- E. Landowner and/or Lessee Name (if other than Applicant): Dr. Robert Thomas Bartoletti
- Mailing Address: 115 Mill Street
- City: Sheridan State: MT Zip: 59749
- Telephone:  E-mail:

### II. PROJECT INFORMATION\*

- A. Project Name: Ramshorn Creek Fish Passage Barrier & WCT Restoration
- River, stream, or lake: Ramshorn Creek
- Location: Township: 4S Range: 4W Section: 08
- Latitude: 45.4095644 Longitude: -112.1238889 *within project (decimal degrees)*
- County: Madison
- B. Purpose of Project:
- This project will create a fish passage barrier to secure native westslope cutthroat trout in the headwaters of Ramshorn Creek in the Ruby River watershed. This barrier will be combined with an irrigation delivery structure to allow additional stream and floodplain restoration work downstream of the barrier.
- C. Brief Project Description:

## Ramshorn Creek fish barrier

The proposed project will install a combined fish passage barrier and irrigation delivery structure on Ramshorn Creek. Project funding will be used for survey, design, and implementation of this project. Survey and design needs are anticipated to be minimal. Design typical for similar projects are included with this application. This structure will secure a genetically pure population of westslope cutthroat trout located in the headwaters of Ramshorn Creek. The proposed project is located on private lands downstream of ongoing water quality restoration work being managed by RVCD. RVCD has an established working relationship with this landowner, MT DEQ, MT FWP, US BLM, and USFS to and monitor riparian and fisheries condition and implement stream restoration on Ramshorn Creek. The barrier is an essential component in implementing a native fish restoration on Ramshorn Creek and its tributaries. When installation of the barrier is completed, MT FWP fisheries biologist, Matt Jaeger, will coordinate additional projects including the removal of non-native fishes upstream of the barrier. Additionally, the barrier will be combined with an irrigation delivery structure which will replace an inoperable head gate downstream of the proposed project. Ramshorn Creek is actively cutting new channels around the existing structure. The maintenance required to continue water delivery from the head gate results in channel manipulation and is disruptive to multiple natural stream processes. The combined barrier and delivery structure will allow Ramshorn Creek below the structure to access an abandoned channel, access its floodplain regularly, and resume channel evolution processes.

D. Length of stream or size of lake that will be treated: 10+ stream miles

E. Project Budget:

Grant Request (Dollars): \$ 40500

Contribution by Applicant (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$  
(salaries of government employees are not considered as matching contributions)

Contribution from other Sources (Dollars): \$ In-kind \$ 2000  
(attach verification - See page 2 budget template)

Total Project Cost: \$ 42500

F. Attach itemized (line item) budget – see template

Attach **specific project plans, detailed sketches, plan views, photographs, maps, evidence of landowner consent, evidence of public support and fish biologist support, and/or other**  
G. **information necessary to evaluate the merits of the project. If project involves water leasing or water salvage complete a *supplemental questionnaire***  
(fwp.mt.gov/habitat/futurefisheries/supplement2.doc).

H. **Attach land management & maintenance plans that will ensure protection of the reclaimed area.**

### III. PROJECT BENEFITS\*

A. What species of fish will benefit from this project?:

Westslope cutthroat trout and rocky mountain sculpin will benefit above the barrier. Stream improvements resulting from this project below the barrier will benefit a fishery that includes eastern brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout.

B. How will the project protect or enhance wild fish habitat?:

## Ramshorn Creek fish barrier

This project will add over 10 miles of westslope cutthroat trout and secure a population of genetically pure cutthroat in Ramshorn Creek. The barrier will protect this population from competition and hybridization with non-native trout species including brook trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout. Improvements to irrigation infrastructure will improve habitat for non-native wild fish below the proposed barrier.

- C. Will the project improve fish populations and/or fishing? To what extent?:

This project will improve native fish populations to a large extent. This project will facilitate nearly 10 stream miles of native fish habitat restoration in the Ruby River watershed. This project will not greatly increase fishing opportunities throughout the watershed. While the project will take place on private property most of the secured habitat is on public lands. Despite the level of access this stream is not considered an important sport fishery.

- D. Will the project increase public fishing opportunity for wild fish and, if so, how?:

This project will have little effect on public fishing opportunities for wild fish. This project will greatly increase fishing opportunities for native fish.

- E. The project agreement includes a 20-year maintenance commitment. Please discuss your ability to meet this commitment.

The Ruby Valley Conservation District has a history of managing and implementing conservation and restoration projects in the Ruby River watershed. RVCD has invested significant resources in watershed restoration activities on Ramshorn Creek over the last several years and has established a good relationship with the landowner. This project has been a top priority of RVCD and the Ruby Watershed Council since the discovery of extant populations of genetically pure westslope cutthroat trout in Ramshorn Creek in 2016. RVCD anticipates that it can meet this commitment to maintenance and monitoring.

- F. What was the cause of habitat degradation in the area of this project and how will the project correct the cause?:

Habitat degradation in the project area was caused by historic mining practices and more recent riparian and stream channel alterations. RVCD began implementing stream restoration projects upstream of the project area to address these impacts in 2016. These projects have addressed some of the most degraded reaches of the stream upstream of the proposed barrier. To date RVCD has improved approximately 1800 feet of Ramshorn Creek. This project will result in the return of Ramshorn Creek to a historic side channel and the removal of an obstacle to stream migration. The new barrier and diversion structure will allow for irrigation from Ramshorn Creek without continued manipulation of the stream channel and riparian area. This project will allow Ramshorn Creek to go through necessary channel migration processes, access its floodplain, and increase riparian health and function.

- G. What public benefits will be realized from this project?:

This project will secure native populations of westslope cutthroat trout. The project will also improve riparian and floodplain functions, improve fish habitat, and improve water quality in the Ramshorn Creek watershed. This project will have a positive impact on downstream fisheries connected to the main stem of the Ruby River. Water quality improvements resulting from increased stream and floodplain function will help to bring Ramshorn Creek within Total Maximum Daily Load standards for sediment.

- H. Will the project interfere with water or property rights of adjacent landowners? (explain):
-

## Ramshorn Creek fish barrier

This project will not limit access to irrigation water or interfere with water right holders. This project will improve irrigation delivery infrastructure in such a way that will also improve riparian condition and discontinue channel manipulation. This project will have no effect on property rights.

- I. Will the project result in the development of commercial recreational use on the site?: (explain):

No. This project will take place on private lands. The primary purpose of this project is to secure a genetically pure population of westslope cutthroat trout.

- J. Is this project associated with the reclamation of past mining activity?:

Yes. This project is closely associated with additional mining reclamation and stream restoration activities overseen by RVCD in the Ramshorn Creek watershed.

**Each approved project applicant must enter into a written agreement with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks specifying terms and duration of the project. The applicant must obtain all applicable permits prior to project construction. A competitive bid process must be followed when using State funds.**

#### IV. AUTHORIZING STATEMENT

I (we) hereby declare that the information and all statements to this application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my (our) knowledge and that the project or activity complies with rules of the Future Fisheries Improvement Program.

Applicant Signature:

Date:

Sponsor (if applicable):

**\*Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

**Mail To:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Fisheries Division  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

**E-mail To:** Michelle McGree  
[mmcgree@mt.gov](mailto:mmcgree@mt.gov)  
(electronic submissions MUST be signed)

Incomplete or late applications will be rejected and returned to applicant.  
Applications may be rejected if this form is modified.

**\*\*\*Applications must be signed and *received* by the Future Fisheries Program Officer in Helena before December 1 and June 1 of each year to be considered for the subsequent funding period.\*\*\***

Ramshorn Creek fish barrier

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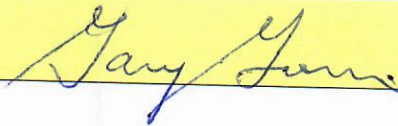
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Applicant Signature:



Date:

5/31/18

Sponsor (if applicable):

**\*Highlighted boxes will automatically expand.**

**Mail To:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Fisheries Division  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620-0701

**E-mail To:** Michelle McGree  
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BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

Both tables must be completed or the application will be returned

WORK ITEMS (ITEMIZE BY CATEGORY)	NUMBER OF UNITS	UNIT DESCRIPTION*	COST/UNIT	TOTAL COST	CONTRIBUTIONS			
					FUTURE FISHERIES REQUEST	IN-KIND SERVICES**	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL
<b>Personnel***</b>								
Survey				\$ -				\$ 4,000.00
Design	1	EST	\$4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	4,000.00			\$ -
Engineering				\$ -				\$ -
Permitting				\$ -				\$ -
Oversight	80	HR	\$25.00	\$ 2,000.00		2,000.00		\$ 2,000.00
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Travel</b>								
Mileage				\$ -				\$ -
Per diem				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Construction Materials****</b>								
	1	EST	\$14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	14,000.00			\$ 14,000.00
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 14,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14,000.00
<b>Equipment and Labor</b>								
Equipment Time	1	EST	\$12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	12,500.00			\$ 12,500.00
Labor	1	EST	\$10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	10,000.00			\$ 10,000.00
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ 22,500.00	\$ 22,500.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 22,500.00
<b>Mobilization</b>								
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
				\$ -				\$ -
			Sub-Total	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Ramshorn Creek fish barrier  
BUDGET TEMPLATE SHEET FOR FUTURE FISHERIES PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ 42,500.00	\$ 40,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 42,500.00
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**OTHER REQUIREMENTS:**

**All of the columns in the budget table and the matching contribution table MUST be completed appropriately or the application will be invalid.** Please see the example budget sheet for additional clarification.

\*Units = feet, hours, inches, etc. Do not use lump sum unless there is no other way to describe the costs.

\*\*Can include in-kind materials. Justification for in-kind labor (e.g. hourly rates used for calculations). Describe here or in text.

Reminder: Government salaries cannot be used as in-kind match

\*\*\*The Review Panel suggests that design and oversight costs associated with a proposed project not exceed 15% of the total project budget. If design and oversight costs are in excess of 15%, applications must include a minimum of two competitive bids for the cost of undertaking the project.

\*\*\*\*The Review Panel recommends a maximum fencing cost of \$1.50 per foot. Additional costs may be the responsibility of the applicant and/or partners.

**MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS** (do not include requested funds)

CONTRIBUTOR	IN-KIND SERVICE	IN-KIND CASH	TOTAL	Secured? (Y/N)
Ruby Valley Conservation District	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	Y
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	

Ramshorn Creek fish barrier

406-683-2175

FAX 406-683-4262

[WWW.remillerandsons.com](http://WWW.remillerandsons.com)

**R.E.MILLER  
& SONS**

15 RAMSHORN

DILLON, MT. 59725

**DAVID STOUT and RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**RAMS HORN CREEK FISH BARRIER**

COST ESTIMATE FOR SURVEY AND DESIGN OF FISH BARRIER ON RAMS HORN CREEK.

\$4,000.00

Thank you for the opportunity to bid on these projects.

Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely;

Vic Hager

Office - 1-406-683-2175

Cell - 1-406-660-1442

# Ramshorn Creek fish barrier

406-683-2175

**R.E.MILLER  
& SONS**

15 RAMSHORN

FAX 406-683-4262

[WWW.remillerandsons.com](http://WWW.remillerandsons.com)

DILLON, MT. 59725

**DAVID STOUT and RUBY VALLEY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

## **RAMS HORN CREEK FISH BARRIER**

COST ESTIMATE FOR INSTALLATION OF FISH BARRIER, AND HEADGATES ON RAMS HORN CREEK. DOES NOT INCLUDE ADDITIONAL TIME SPENT ON RECONSTRUCTING A NEW CHANNEL FOR RAMSHORN CRK.

1) MATERIALS - \$13,674.60

2) EQUIPMENT TIME - \$12,497.00

3) LABOR - \$9,892.00

TOTAL = \$36,062.95

Thank you for the opportunity to bid on these projects.

Πλεασε φεελ φρεε το χονταχτ με ανψητιμε.

Σινχερελψ;

ςιχ Ηαγερ

Οφφιχε – 1–406–683–2175

Χελλ – 1–406–660–1442

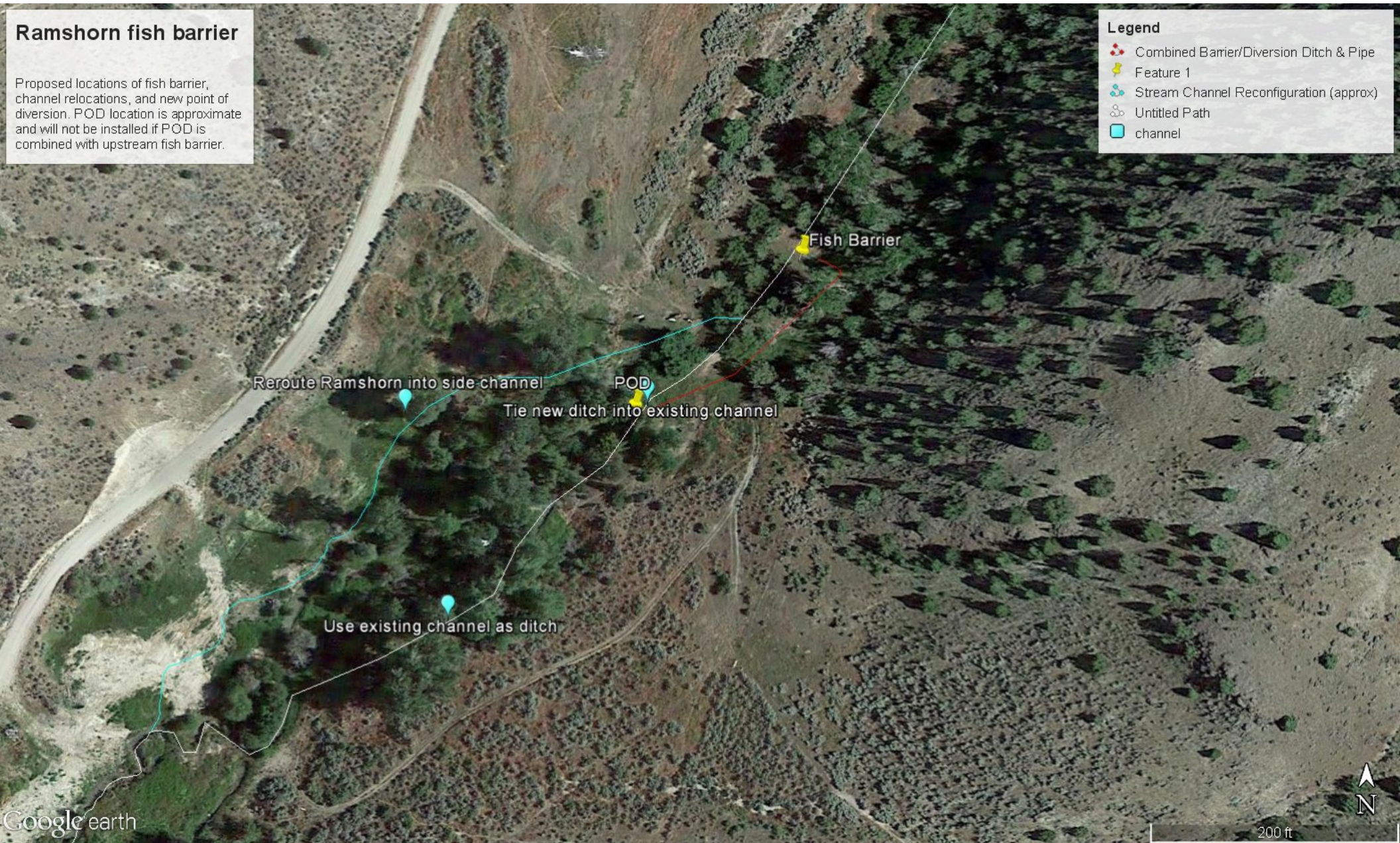
## Ramshorn Creek fish barrier

### Ramshorn fish barrier

Proposed locations of fish barrier, channel relocations, and new point of diversion. POD location is approximate and will not be installed if POD is combined with upstream fish barrier.

#### Legend

- Combined Barrier/Diversion Ditch & Pipe
- Feature 1
- Stream Channel Reconfiguration (approx)
- Untitled Path
- channel





Ramshorn Creek fish barrier



Ramshorn Creek fish barrier

May 31, 2018

Future Fisheries Improvement Program Panel  
c/o Michelle McGree  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Future Fisheries Panel,

I am writing to express my support for the Ruby Valley Conservation District's proposed project to install a fish passage barrier and restore native westslope cutthroat trout to Ramshorn Creek. I understand that this project will take place on my property. I give it my full support and consent to the installation of such a barrier and irrigation delivery structure on my property and I am excited by the prospect of restoring native fish to Ramshorn Creek.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Thomas Bartoletti, DMD

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*Dr. Robert Thomas Bartoletti DMD*



## **Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks**

**Dillon Field Office Fisheries Management 730 ½ N. Montana Dillon, MT 59725**  
**Phone: (406) 683-9310 Fax: (406) 683-4126 email: [mattjaeger@mt.gov](mailto:mattjaeger@mt.gov)**

31 May 2018

Future Fisheries Improvement Program Panel  
c/o Michelle McGree  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
PO Box 200701  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Panel,

I strongly support the Ruby Valley Watershed Council and Conservation District's proposal to install a fish barrier and irrigation structure on Ramshorn Creek to support Westslope Cutthroat Trout (WCT) conservation efforts.

The upper 0.9 miles of Ramshorn Creek supports one of three remaining genetically unaltered populations of WCT in the Ruby Watershed and the only one downstream of Ruby Reservoir. There are only 170 fish in this population, placing them at high risk of genetic and demographic extirpation. The existence of this extant population was first realized in 2016 and its protection and expansion has become among the highest priorities of a local working group of agencies that includes FWP, BLM, USFS, and the Ruby Valley Watershed Council. In 2017 the USFS installed a perched culvert to provide a temporary barrier but a longer term isolating mechanism is needed to secure this population. The BLM contracted preliminary design and cost estimation of a cast-in-place concrete barrier but this structure was deemed infeasible because of anticipated cost (\$384,000).

The proposed barrier would provide a cost-effective alternative that will secure the Ramshorn Creek WCT population. This project, in conjunction with removal of non-native fishes, would add over 10 miles of habitat and secure this population. FWP is committed to completing MEPA and implementing any resultant projects to remove non-native fishes upstream of the barrier as well as any genetic or demographic management needed to ensure expansion and long-term viability of this population and this project's success.

## Ramshorn Creek fish barrier

The Ruby Valley Watershed Council has been and continues to be an integral partner and facilitator in addressing diverse watershed issues and impairments. They have a strong track record of working with DNRC, DEQ, BLM, USFS, FWP, irrigators, and other stakeholders to resolve complex issues in general and in Ramshorn Creek, which is a focal area of their watershed restoration plan, in particular. This grant will provide support essential for completion of their watershed restoration objectives as well as broader inter-agency WCT conservation goals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project and your continuing dedication to conserving and restoring Montana's fisheries resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Jaeger', is written over the printed name and title.

Matthew Jaeger  
Fisheries Management Biologist

Ramshorn Creek fish barrier



David Stout  
406.842.5741 x105  
david@rvcd.org

PO Box 295  
Sheridan, MT  
59749

May 31, 2018

RE: Ramshorn Creek Fish Barrier Land Management and Maintenance Plan

Dear Grant Selection Panel,

This letter is to confirm the Ruby Valley Conservation District's commitment to future management and maintenance of the proposed fish barrier on Ramshorn Creek. RVCD is committed to ensuring that the implementation of this project meets all state and federal permitting requirements. Additionally, RVCD anticipates that this project will cause some level of disturbance to the stream channel and riparian area. RVCD is committed to minimizing impacts to the project area and following up with maintenance, noxious weed control, and revegetation projects if needed. Furthermore, RVCD is committed to performing routine monitoring of the project area by way of annual riparian assessments of the project area. This will ensure that the affected riparian area is in a functional and sustainable condition. RVCD would likely follow this project with annual monitoring for a period of 3-5 years and then every 5 years throughout the 20-year period of commitment.

If you have any questions about the proposed project or RVCD's ability to meet management and maintenance needs, please do not hesitate to contact me at [david@rvcd.org](mailto:david@rvcd.org) or (406) 842-5741 x105.

Sincerely,

David Stout, Stewardship Director  
Ruby Valley Conservation District  
Ruby Watershed Council